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### ANCIENT MASONIC CONSTITUTIONS OR CHARGES.

THE SLOANE MS., NO. 3846, A. D. 1646.

[Copied from the Original in the British Museum for the Masonic Magazine.]

THE might of ye Father of Heaven, with ye wisdom of ye glorious sonne, through ye goodness of ye holy ghost: yt bee three psons in one god, &, bee wth us at or begininge; and give us grace soe to governe us in our liveinge, yt wee may come to his blisse yt never shall have endinge.

Good Brethren and Fellowes our purpose is to tell you, how and in what manner this craft of Masonrie was begun, and afterwards founded by worthy Kings and Princes and many other wortt men; and alsoe to ym that be heare; wee will declare to ym the charge yt doth belonge to every true Mason to keepe: for good sooth if you take heede thereunto it is well worthie to be well kept, for a worthie Craft and curious science, for there be seaven liberall sciences, of ye wch it is one. The first is Grammer; yt teacheth a man to speake truth and write truly. The second is Rethoricke; yt teacheth a man to speake faire and in subttill tearmes. The third Loggick, yt teacheth to disearne truth from falcehood. The fourth is Arthimeticke, yt teacheth to account he recount all manner of numbers. The fift is called Geomeetree, and it teacheth & meate & measure of ye earth; and other things, which science is Masonrie; The sixth is Musicke, wch teacheth songe & voice of tongue, of organes and harpe; The seventh is called Astronomie; that teacheth to knowe ye course of sonne & moone; and other ornaments of ye heavens. These 7 liberall sciences, ye which seaven bee all one science: That is to say Geometry, Thus may a man prove, yt all science in ye world bee found in Geometry; for it teacheth meate and measure ponderation & weight of all manner of kind earth; and there is noe man yt worketh by any Craft but hee worketh by some measure; and noe man yt buys and sells, but by measure and weight, and all Geometriarians & Craftsmen and Merchants find noe other of ye seaven sciences; and especeally Plowmen and tellars of all manner of graine; both of cornes seeds vines plants, sellers of all other fruits; For Gramer neither Astronomie, nor any of all these can finde a man one measure or meate, without Geometry, wherefore I thinke that science